

Open Doors

Open Doors is a non-denominational mission supporting persecuted Christians in the world. They work with local partners to distribute Bibles and Christian literature, give discipleship training^[1] and provide practical support, such as emergency relief aid. Open Doors' stated aims are to raise awareness of global persecution, mobilising prayer, support and action among Christians from around the world. It is based in Ermelo, The Netherlands. Open Doors is also a member of the Forum of Bible Agencies International.

Open Doors has 20 affiliate offices and a presence in 60 countries around the world.^{[2][3]}

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Open Doors

	
Founded	1955
Founder	<u>Brother Andrew</u>
Type	Christian Charity
Focus	Strengthening persecuted Christians worldwide
Location	<u>Santa Ana, California</u>
Area served	70+ countries
Key people	<u>Brother Andrew</u>
Revenue	\$116.3 million (2015; including affiliates)
Website	<u>www.opendoors.org</u> (<u>http://www.opendoors.org</u>)

History

Open Doors was founded in 1955 by Andrew van der Bijl, a Dutchman more widely known as Brother Andrew, when he decided to smuggle Bibles to persecuted Christians in Communist Poland.^[4] He continued this work in smuggling Bibles to many of the Soviet-controlled countries and in 1957 was given a blue Volkswagen Beetle which he used to make deliveries within the Communist bloc.^[5] With this new car he was able to carry more literature. Thereafter, the work of Open Doors continued to expand as it extended its network throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He was responsible for smuggling millions of Bibles behind the Iron Curtain.^[3]

On 18 June 1981, Open Doors delivered one million contraband Chinese Bibles in one night to a beach near the city of Shantou in southern China on a mission they named Project Pearl. Project Pearl was carried out by an international crew of 20, led by Brother David. A semi-submersible, 137-foot barge, named *Gabriella*, was loaded with 232 waterproof, poly-wrapped, one-ton packages containing a million Chinese Bibles.^[6] A 97-foot tugboat named Michael was used to tow *Gabriella* to the beach, weaving through a maze of anchored Chinese navy ships. The crew arrived at the beach at 9 pm. 10,000 Chinese Christians had gathered to bring the Bibles to shore and then deliver them all over China.^[7] *Time* magazine described Project Pearl as "A remarkable mission... the largest operation of its kind in the history of China."^[8]

In 1988, Open Doors used Glasnost^[9] as an opportunity to openly provide one million Russian Bibles to the Russian Orthodox Church, at a cost of \$2.5 million.^[10] Open Doors partnered with the United Bible Societies to complete the task in just over one year.^[11]

In 2005, 428,856 people from over 70 different countries signed Open Doors' global Right to Believe petition, saying Yes to religious liberty and No to the UN's Defamation of Religions Resolution.^[12] The petition was presented to the UN in New York in December 2010.^[13]

In 2015, Open Doors (including its affiliates) delivered 3 million Bibles and literature, and delivered relief and aid to 239,164 people.^[14] In 2018 the USA organization spent \$19,291,134 on programs to the persecuted church with \$4.7 M spent on fundraising and \$2.8 on administration.^[15]

Programs

Open Doors and its affiliates conduct programs in many countries:^[16]

- Delivering Bibles and other Christian literature^[9]
- Providing pastoral and discipleship training
- Conducting seminars on Christian living, family life. "Standing Strong Through the Storm" is the seminar they use to teach churches on how to survive under persecution.^[17]
- Running Bible-based literacy courses
- Supplying equipment and vocational training to help widows, families of prisoners of conscience, the displaced, and the unemployed to earn a living^[18]
- Providing legal aid and spiritual and emotional comfort to prisoners and their families
- Financing and supplying equipment to pastors, churches, and Bible colleges
- Supplying printing presses, radios, cassette players, photocopiers, and A/V and transport equipment
- Sponsoring Bible colleges, reconciliation ministries and restoration centres for Christian refugees, widows and orphans.

World Watch List

The organization publishes an annual *World Watch List* which ranks countries by the severity of persecution faced by active Christians. The WWL is based on research and comparison of field researchers, external experts, academics, and publicly available research documents but is subjective. In 2012, the methodology of the WWL was comprehensively revised in order to provide greater credibility, transparency, objectivity and scientific quality. In 2013, further refinement of the methodology took place.^[19] Countries are ranked on a scale from 0 to 100 depending on persecution of church life, national life, community life, family life, private life and violence against Christians. Countries are categorized under "Extreme Persecution", "Very High Persecution" or "High Persecution". In 2021, all top 50 countries are in either the "Extreme Persecution" or "Very High Persecution" categories, for the first time since the World Watch List was originally published.^[20]

The 2021 list of 50 ranked countries:^[21]


Extreme Persecution

1.  North Korea

2.  Afghanistan
3.  Somalia
4.  Libya
5.  Pakistan
6.  Eritrea
7.  Yemen
8.  Iran
9.  Nigeria
10.  India
11.  Iraq

Very High Persecution

- 1.
12.  Syria
13.  Sudan
14.  Saudi Arabia
15.  Maldives
16.  Egypt
17.  China
18.  Myanmar
19.  Vietnam
20.  Mauritania
21.  Uzbekistan
22.  Laos
23.  Turkmenistan
24.  Algeria
25.  Turkey
26.  Tunisia
27.  Morocco
28.  Mali
29.  Qatar
30.  Colombia
31.  Bangladesh
32.  Burkina Faso
33.  Tajikistan
34.  Nepal
35.  Central African Republic
36.  Ethiopia
37.  Mexico
38.  Jordan
39.  Brunei
40.  DRC
41.  Kazakhstan
42.  Cameroon

43.  Bhutan
44.  Oman
45.  Mozambique
46.  Malaysia
47.  Indonesia
48.  Kuwait
49.  Kenya
50.  Comoros

See also

- Anti-Christian sentiment
- International Christian Concern
- Religious intolerance
- Religious persecution

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External links

- [Official website \(http://www.opendoors.org/\)](http://www.opendoors.org/)
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This page was last edited on 27 October 2021, at 14:05 (UTC).

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